MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION UTILITY DIVISION AGENDA NO. 97-10-27

Date Prepared: October 23, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: October 27, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: October 27, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at http://www.psc.mt.gov.

<u>Place of Meetings</u> All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

<u>Inquiries</u> General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

<u>Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities</u> Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

- 1. MPC Docket D96.2.22 Discuss and act on draft final order, other matters as necessary (10/27/97)
- 2. Gardiner/West Yellowstone EAS Discuss initiating a docket to investigate combining the Gardiner/West Yellowstone calling area with the Bozeman/Livingston calling area (10/28/97)
- 3. AT&T/USWC Arbitration Docket D96.11.200 Continue discussion/action on disputed contract issues (10/28/97)
- 4. MDU Docket D97.10.188 Discuss and act on MDU motion for protective order, other matters as necessary (10/28/97)
- 5. GFG Docket D97.7.119 Discuss and act on motions, other matters as necessary, if necessary (10/28/97)
- 6. SB396 Rules Docket L-97.1-RUL Discuss and act on draft rules, other matters as necessary (10/28/97)

- 7. MPC Docket D97.7.90 Discuss Commission staff data requests MPC would not answer due to their relation to the unregulated portions of MPC (10/28/97)
- 8. Electricity Supplier Licensing and Rulemaking Docket L-97.8.6-RUL Discuss draft rules, direction to issue for comments (10/28/97)
- 9. Proposed slamming rules Docket L-97.6.3-RUL Discuss and vote on proposed notice of adoption for submission to Secretary of State by November 3, 1997 (10/28/97)
- 10. Weekly Scheduling Meeting Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

<u>Action Items</u> All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - Docket N97.10.189 (Vicki)

On October 14, 1997, Sprint filed tariff pages to delete text regarding the payphone surcharge and to change the Intrastate/InterLATA, MTS rates.

2. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS CO. - Docket N97.10.186 (Nina)

On October 9, 1997, Sprint Communications Co., submitted a tariff filing purposing the following changes: (1) to introduce Sprint Sense College Plan and Sprint Sense College Plan Option B; (2) restructure Moonlight Madness; and (3) add text changes to the Operator Services Call Placement section and Casual Caller Service Charge.

3. WORLDCOM INC. - Docket N97.10.185

(Nina)

On October 8, 1997, WorldCom, Inc. filed tariff pages reflecting a name change to WorldCom Technologies, Inc. The filing reflects text changes; deletes obsolete services; and grandfathers services that are no longer being sold, but do have existing customers on them.

4. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT - Docket D97.9.181

(Eric)

On September 26, 1997, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on September 30, 1997. Requests for hearing were due by October 27, 1997. No requests have been received. This application will increase rates by \$3,036 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

5. MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES - Docket D97.10.188

(Dave)

On October 14, 1997, Montana-Dakota Utilities filed its first gas tracker under the new monthly filing schedule. MDU has requested an increase of \$.338 per dkt for residential and general service customers and an increase of \$.464 per dkt for large interruptible customers. Through ORDER No. 5856g, Docket No. D95.7.90, MDU is now implementing a revenue increase of .7 cents per dkt, from a previously approved reserved issue regarding prepaid taxes on pensions and benefits. Finally, MDU is requesting a .15 cents per dkt increase because of increased PSC and MCC taxes which became effective October 1, 1997. This amounts to an approximate \$416,000 increase for the month of November.

6. USWC & MONTANA TEL-NET - Docket D97.7.135

(Karen)

On July 31, 1997, the parties filed their negotiated interconnection agreement for Commission approval. The agreement incorporates a separate Resale Agreement that was previously negotiated. The Commission met in a work session on October 21, 1997, giving staff direction on two specific provisions. Staff also recommended rejection of several other provisions as discriminating against a carrier not a party to the agreement, not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, or not consistent with Montana law. A draft Final Order has been prepared and distributed which provides for approval of some of the rejected sections if amended as set forth in the order within 14 days.

7. PSC Investigation - SERVICE COST MODEL - Docket D97.9.167 (Karen)

In addition to the timely petitions for intervention filed in this docket, the Commission received late petitions for general intervention, one from Montana Consumer Counsel on September 23, 1997 and one from Citizens Telecommunications Company on September 24, 1997. Deadline for intervention was September 22, 1997. The petitioners' intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the proceeding or delay the proceeding and their participation is in the public interest.

8. MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket D97.7.90

(Denise)

XENERGY has filed a petition for late intervention. Staff recommends approval providing intervention does not unduly broaden the issues or delay the proceedings.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.10.190 (Bonnie)

On October 15, 1997, US WEST filed tariff pages revising some non-recurring charges and proposing some structure changes to the Private Line Transport services. The filing increases Rollover non-recurring charges for Voice Grade Private line and Digital Data Service; introduces a service guarantee provisioning; revises contract terms and conditions; and adds clarifying language to credit allowance for service interruption.

2. CITIZENS TELECOMM. COMPANY - D97.9.164 and D97.9.165 (Vicki)

On October 15, 1997, Citizens Telecommunications Company filed tariff pages implementing the change in the Public Service Commission fee from .18% to .22% and adding the Montana Consumer Counsel fee of .07%, effective October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998.

3. PACIFICORP - Docket D97.10.195 (Eric)

On October 20, 1997, PP&L filed an application seeking authority to borrow from its subsidiaries and issue promissory notes to its subsidiaries without limitation provided that such borrowings bear interest at rates which do not exceed the interest rates which the Company would otherwise incur externally. In Docket No. 83.2.8 the Commission authorized borrowing from subsidiaries limited to \$200,000,000. PP&L believes that there may be occasions where the current limitation of \$200,000,000 will adversely affect PP&L's short-term borrowing costs.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-11-3

Docket N97.10.190 US WEST COMMUNICATIONS (Bonnie) D97.9.164 and D97.9.165 CITIZENS TELECOMM. COMPANY (Vicki) Docket D97.10.195 PACIFICORP (Eric)

New Filings Received in Past Week

D97.10.191	WorldCom - Application for approval of transfer of control of MCI to WorldCom
N97.10.192	Energy West Resources - Application for interim license - natural
	gas supplier
N97.10.193	MP Energy Services, Inc Application for interim license - natural
	gas supplier
N97.10.194	MP Energy, Inc Application for interim license - natural gas
	supplier
D97.10.195	PP&L - Security Issue
N97.9.196	MP Energy, Inc Application for interim license - electric
N97.9.197	MP Energy Services, Inc Application for interim license - electric
N97.9.198	Energy Services, Inc Application for interim license - electric
N97.10.199	Energy West Resources - Application for interim license - electric